Mr. Carnegie's Gift.

The setting aside of $5,000,000, the income of which is to be used for the benefit of old or unfortunate employes and their dependents, is so unusual as to attract widespread attention. Nothing that Mr. Carnegie has done will win more commendation from the people generally. This recognition of his obligation to his employes is creditable to him and an example to others. While the amount invested for the benefit of his former workmen constitutes but a small proportion of his accumulations, even a small per cent is more than most large employers of labor are disposed to return to the wage earners. If such benefactions were more common the relations between labor and capital would be more harmonious.

In this instance the donor is the possessor of such great wealth that parting with five millions may be a relief rather than a sacrifice, but this does not rob the act of its meritorious character.

It is to be regretted that the fund is invested in the bonds of the great steel trust, because this fact may tend to restrain the employes from criticising private monopolies. Mr. Carnegie probably did not intend this, but large corporations with an abundance of watered stock may follow his example for a less philanthropic purpose. Below will be found Mr. Carnegie's letter setting forth the conditions of the gift:

To the President and Managers, the Carnegie Company. Gentlemen:—Mr. Franks, my cashier, will hand over to you upon your acceptance of the trust $5,000,000 of the Carnegie company bonds in trust for the following purposes:

The income of $1,000,000 to be spent in maintaining libraries built by me in Braddock, Homestead and Duquesne. I have been giving the interest of $250,000 to each of these libraries hitherto, and this will give a revenue of $50,000 hereafter for the three. Braddock library is doing a great deal of work for the neighborhood, and requires more than Homestead. Homestead, on the other hand, will probably require more for a time than Duquesne, but I leave it to you to distribute the funds from time to time according to the work done or needed. Duquesne's portion can be held until the library is opened and then applied to meet extras in cost, if any.

The income of the other $4,000,000 is to be applied:

1. To provide for employes of the Carnegie company in all its works, mines, railways, shops, etc., injured in its service, and for those dependent upon such employes as are killed.

2. To provide small pensions or aids to such employes as, after long and creditable service, through exceptional circumstances, need such help in their old age and who make a good use of it. Should these uses not require all of the revenue and a surplus of $200,000 be left over after ten years' operations, then for all over this workmen in mills other than the Carnegie company in Allegheny county shall become eligible for participation in the fund, the mills nearest the works of the Carnegie Steel Company being first embraced.

This fund is not intended to be used as a substitute for what the company has been in the habit of doing in such cases—far from it. It is intended to go still farther and give to the injured or their families, or to employes who are needy in old age through no fault of their own, some provision against want as long as needed, or until young children can become self-supporting.

Your president and myself have been conferring for some time past as to the possibility of introducing a pension and beneficial system to which employes contribute, resembling that so admirably established by the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio railroads. We find it a difficult problem to adjust to a manufacturing concern, but should it be solved hereafter the trustees have authority to make this fund the foundation of such a system.

Each superintendent will report to the president such cases in his department as he thinks worthy of aid from the fund, and the president will in turn report to the directors, with his recommendation for action.

A report to be made at the end of each year giving an account of the fund and of its distribution shall be published in two papars in Pittsburg and copies posted freely at the several works that every employe may know what is being done. Publicity in this manner will, I am sure, have a beneficial effect.

I make this first use of surplus wealth upon retiring from business as an acknowledgement of the deep debt which I owe to the workmen who have contributed so greatly to my success. I hope the cordial relation which exists between employers and employed throughout all of the Carnegie company works may never be disturbed; both employers and employed remembering what I said in my last speech to the men at Homestead: "Labor, capital and business ability are the three legs of a three-legged stool; neither is first, neither is second, neither third; there is no precedence, all being equally necessary. He who would sow discord among the three is an enemy of all."

I know that I have done my duty in retiring from business when an opportunty presented itself, and yet as I write my heart is full. I have enjoyed so much my connection with workmen, foremen, clerks, superintendents, partners and all other classes that it is a great wrench indeed to say farewell. Happily there is no real farewell in one sense, because, although no longer an employer, I am still and always must be a friend, deeply interested in the happiness of all whom it has been my good fortune to know and work in sympathy with for so many happy years.

Always truly yours, ANDREW CARNEGIE.

Lincoln and Democracy.

Speaking of Lincoln, the Rome Tribune says: "We can see no reason in world for democrats to celebrate his birthday. He was a patriotic American, but never a democrat."

That depends on what you call a democrat. The name is nothing. It is true that Abraham Lincoln was never allied with the organization which at the time of his election to the presidency was the democratic party. In that sense he was not a democrat. So Thomas Jefferson was as much republican as democrat, if we accept the nomenclature of the day. His party was the democratic-republican party. But the name is unimportant. Jefferson stood for those principles of universal liberty and equality which it has been the guiding purpose of the democratic party to maintain. Mr. Lincoln was a true Jeffersonian. He based his strongest arguments for the preservation of the union and the extinction of slavery on the expressions of the author of the Declaration of Independence. He did more for the democratization of American institutions than any other man besides Thomas Jefferson.

Mr. Jefferson was called a doctrinaire and his statement that all men are, and of right ought to be free and equal, seemed impossible of attainment. For half a century the words were not taken literally. Lincoln demanded the literal construction of that assertion of universal liberty and universal equality, and he did much toward attaining it. Only recently the great truth was reaffirmed in the Cuban resolutions. In a broad sense Lincoln was as much democrat as republican. Like Jefferson, indeed, he was both. His views were not those of a party. They represented the national idea, the strong pulse beat from the heart of the nation. Circumstances made it impossible for the south to appreciate Mr. Lincoln. His policy appeared to degrade and humiliate our people. But he was a southern man and the same stock as East Tennesseans. He was one of the soil, and not an aristocrat.—Knoxville (Tenn.) Sentinel.

"I Can Go to See Kruger."

The country is deeply indebted to A. L. Mason, of Indianapolis, a lawyer and personal friend of the late Benjamin Harrison, for the report of an interview which Mr. Mason had with the General only a few days before the latter's fatal illness began.

The remarks made by the ex-president on that occasion as quoted to the people of the United States yesterday by Mr. Mason will endure in the minds of the people longer than any speech General Harrison ever made, any argument he ever offered, any proclamation he ever issued, any message he ever dictated, any state paper he ever signed.

General Harrison's quick response, "I can go to see Kruger," will take its place along with a score of celebrated American phrases which rank as they were uttered and have rung ever since, such as "Don't give up the ship," "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute," "Give me liberty or give me death," "If any man attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot," "Don't cheer boys; the poor devils are dying," "With malice toward none and with charity for all." It will endure like these because it sounded a chord as passionately American, as nobly human, as resolutely bold as any of these. And it was courageously democratic, spoken out of a confidence and faith and pride in popular government that maketh not ashamed.

It was a patriotic chord, too far lost, struck again, and the grander because it had reference to another and a struggling people. It was the flaming up of the truly American democratic spirit in sympathy with democracy the world over.

The words were spoken after reference to General Harrison's recently published article on the Boer war and were in reply to a suggestion that if Harrison went abroad he might not be an acceptable guest at the English court. The picture of the English court with its crown, its purple, its gold lace, being the flower growing out of the dunghill where a monarchical system has thrown the disregarded common rights of man, did not bedazzle the great grandson of a signer of the American Declaration of Independence and who had himself in public service added to the glory of the institutions which his worthy ancestor had assisted in establishing. He had an alternative which his genuine Americanism was quick in conceiving. More honored would he be with a reception by Paul Kruger, wandering, if extremity compelled it, unattended on the veldt, the modern King Lear among the sovereigns and rulers of the world, than with a welcome of affected graciousness to the presence of king, dukes and barons. That is where the president or the ex-president of the greatest republic in the world, where the official head of a people who in New York harbor raised the colossal statue of Liberty Enlightening the World, would more properly belong if to enter St. James palace he would have to abjure one jot or tittle of his political and civil faith. —Omaha World-Herald.

Children and Flowers

How can public school children be interested in beautifying their home surroundings? To many communities which seek an answer to this question, some account of the success achieved in one of the largest cities in the United States may prove suggestive. The Home Gardening Association of Goodrich Social Settlement, in Cleveland, Ohio, encouraged by experience among their neighborhood people, sought to extend their work last year among the public schools. With the concurrence of the school authorities the association secured a special committee of three teachers to take official charge of this movement. A circular was sent out to the teacher and pupils, explaining that packages of seeds of easily grown flowering annuals—four o'clocks nasturium, zinnias, morning-glory, batchelor's buttons, larkspur, marigolds, and calendula—would be supplied to pupils at a cost of one penny per package. Each pupil received a card on which choice of nine varieties was allowed; the teachers collected the cards, and the result was that nearly 50,000 packages were asked for.—The Chautauquan.